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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/127 of 18 December 1992 on the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, noted that the difficult financial situation of the Centre during the biennium 1992-1993 had created considerable obstacles in the implementation of the various procedures and mechanisms, negatively influenced the servicing by the Secretariat of the bodies concerned with human rights and impaired the quality and precision of reporting; recognized the need to provide sufficient human resources to the Centre, particularly in view of the fact that its workload had dramatically increased while resources had failed to keep pace with the expansion of its responsibilities (see annexes I and II); and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources were accorded to the Centre to enable it to carry out, in full and on time, all the mandates, including the additional ones, resulting from the decisions of intergovernmental and expert bodies. The Assembly also approved, in the context of revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, additional resources amounting to $890,000 for the mandate on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia and authorized the Secretary-General to commit additional resources in the amount of $760,000 for the increased work programme of the Centre. Finally, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session (E/CN.4/1993/87) and a final report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the developments relating to the activities of the Centre and on the measures taken to implement that resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. As a result of the additional mandates adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the expansion of the existing mandates by the various rapporteurs and experts, 16 Professional posts were temporarily redeployed to the Centre for

Human Rights in 1992, five of which were for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia; likewise, three additional posts at the Professional level were redeployed to the Centre as of July 1993, for a six-month period. Furthermore, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, in which the Secretary-General was requested to take the appropriate measures to provide for the financing of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture from the regular budget of the United Nations, beginning with the budget for the biennium 1994-1995, the Secretary-General has proposed the transferring of the financing of the travel requirements for the above-mentioned Committees from extrabudgetary to regular budget resources, as well as the establishment of two Professional posts and one General Service post for the substantive servicing of the Committee against Torture, previously funded from extrabudgetary resources.

3. In order to respond effectively to all challenges, a new organizational structure of the Centre for Human Rights has been approved, which comprises an Assistant Secretary-General as head of the Centre, reporting directly to the Secretary-General; an Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; the Liaison Office at Headquarters; and five separate branches: Communications Branch, Special Procedures Branch, International Instruments Branch, Legislation and Prevention of Discrimination Branch, Advisory Services and Technical Assistance and Publications Branch.

4. The Secretary-General has included in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 proposals for further strengthening the Centre for Human Rights in the light of the significant expansion of its traditional activities and the new demands that have been placed on it. These proposals include the establishment of 43 new posts for the Centre, including the 19 posts at the Professional level that were redeployed to the Centre in 1992 and 1993 on a temporary basis as well as a significant increase. This represents a budget growth of 41.9 per cent for the Centre.

5. These proposals will be reviewed in the context of the consideration by the Fifth Committee of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

ANNEX I

Workload of the Centre for Human Rights/Established posts: increase from 1980 to 1992

	1980	1985	1990	1992	Increase (percentage)
Documentation (pages)	32 367	45 497	65 429	86 276	167
Meetings (serviced by the Centre)	455	405	747	1 087	139
Human rights treaty-monitoring bodies	3	3	5	6	100 a/
States parties to human rights instruments	240	375	450	652	172 b/
"1503" Procedure (communications received)	25 000	15 000	150 000	42 000	70 c/
Optional Protocol (pending cases)	29	25	124	138	375
Special procedures (mandates)	4	10	21	30	650 d/
Studies	18	20	38	62	240 e/
Technical cooperation (projects)	-	2	20	38	1 800
Staffing resources (total of Professional and General Service posts)	81	80	73	82	1.3 f/

a/ The increase in the number of treaty bodies does not reflect the increase in their workload, which has greatly expanded qualitatively.

b/ As of September 1993, the number of States parties had increased to 712.

c/ In the first six months of 1993, 250,000 communications were received.

d/ The increase in the number of mandates does not reflect the increase in the workload within the mandates, which has greatly expanded in scope.

e/ Studies/reports carried out by the Centre, as requested by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

f/ Additional temporary posts: 6 Professional and 6 General Service (1992); 16 Professional posts redeployed to the Centre for an initial period of six months (five of which for the mission in the former Yugoslavia) (1992); and 3 Professional posts redeployed to the Centre for six months (1993).

ANNEX II

Staffing resources of the Centre for Human Rights, 1980-1993: Established posts

Category	1980-1981	1982-1983	1984-1985	1986-1987	1988-1989	1990-1991	1992-1993
Professional and above							
USG	-	-	-	-	a/	a/	-
ASG	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
D-2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
D-1	2	1	2	2	3	3	3
P-5	9	9	8	8	7	7	7
P-4	14	14	14	14	13	13	15
P-3	14	14	14	14	13	13	14
P-2/1	8	8	8	9	9	9	10
Total	48	47	47	48	45	45	51
General Service							
Principal level	2	2	2	1	-	-	-
Other levels	31	31	31	32	28	28	31
Total	33	33	33	33	28	28	31
Grand total	81	80	80	81	73	73	82

NOTE: Additional temporary posts: 6 Professional and 6 General Service (1992); 16 Professional posts redeployed to the Centre for an initial period of six months (five of which for the mission in the former Yugoslavia) (1992); and 3 Professional posts redeployed to the Centre for six months (1993).

a/ The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva had overall responsibility for the Centre for Human Rights.